

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (canceled)
2. (currently amended) An article for protection from anal soiling, the article being adapted for use with a body having a buttocks, a buttocks cleft, and a genital region, comprising:
  - an impervious outer layer;
  - at least one absorbent middle layer;
  - a liquid-permeable bodymost layer, wherein the article has a wide first end adapted for covering at least part of the buttocks region and a narrow second end adapted for extending just short of the genital region when the first end is positioned over the buttocks region; and
  - an additional absorbent pad of medium thickness extending from the second end to the beginning of the first end and providing a dam adapted to be situated within the ventral portion of the buttock cleft.
3. (previously amended) The article of claim 2, further comprising a midline ridge extending from the center of the second end to the center of the first end and adapted to fit into the buttock cleft.
4. (canceled)
5. (previously amended) The article of claim 2, further comprising adhesive disposed along the back of the impervious outer layer, for removable attachment of the article to a garment.
6. (previously amended) The article of claim 3, further comprising adhesive disposed along the back of the impervious outer layer, for removable attachment of the article to a garment.

7. (canceled)

8. (previously amended) The article of claim 2, further comprising an attached disposable panty.

9. (previously amended) The article of claim 3, further comprising an attached disposable panty.

10. (currently amended) The article of claim 2, wherein the article has a pear-like shape, ~~the first end being wide and the second end being narrow.~~

11. (currently amended) The article of claim 3, wherein the article has a pear-like shape, ~~the first end being wide and the second end being narrow.~~

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The article of claim 2, further comprising an extension of on the second end adapted for covering the genital region.

14. (currently amended) The article of claim 3, further comprising an extension of on the second end adapted for covering the genital region.

15. (currently amended) An article for protection from anal soiling, the article being adapted for use with a body having a buttocks, a buttocks cleft, and a genital region, comprising:

an impervious outer layer;

at least one absorbent middle layer;

a liquid-permeable bodymost layer, wherein the article has a wide first end adapted for covering at least part of the buttocks region and a narrow second end adapted for extending just short of the genital region when the first end is positioned over the buttocks region; and

a midline ridge extending from the center of the second end to the center of the first end and adapted to fit into the buttock cleft.

16. (previously presented) The article of claim 15, further comprising adhesive disposed along the back of the impervious outer layer, for removable attachment of the article to a garment.

17. (previously presented) The article of claim 15, further comprising an attached disposable panty.

18. (currently amended) The article of claim 15, wherein the article has a pear-like shape, ~~the first end being wide and the second end being narrow.~~

19. (currently amended) The article of claim 15, further comprising an extension ~~of~~ on the second end adapted for covering the genital region.

20. (new claim) The article of claim 15, wherein the absorbent middle layer is thickened from the second end to the beginning of the first end, providing a dam adapted to be situated within the ventral portion of the buttock cleft.